



BRIGHTLINGSEA
URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for 1961

BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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Cr. R. V. Crook, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Cr. C. O. Fensom.

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R. A. STENHOUSE, L.M.S.S.A.(Lond.), D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of
Brightlingsea, Clacton, Frinton and Walton, and Rural
District of Tendring and Assistant County Medical Officer.

R. D. PEARCE, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lon.), D.P.H.
(left 30th April, 1961)

J. COLVIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector,
Surveyor
Meat and Food Inspector,
Water Engineer.

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Town Hall,
Brightlingsea,
Colchester,
Essex.

May, 1962.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the state of Public Health in the Urban District of Brightlingsea for 1961.

The Health of the community has remained at a very high level, but deaths from cancer have increased from 8 last year to 14, probably because 54 deaths in people over 75 as compared with 33 last year in this age group.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population has increased by 50, and the number of births are 5 more than in 1960, but the corrected birth rate is lower than that for England and Wales in 1961. There were no still births during the year.

The corrected death rate is slightly higher than the previous year, however, no deaths of infants under one year have occurred.

The incidence of infectious disease has remained low, but there were 17 cases of measles, the increase in this disease is common with other areas.

Clinics have been well attended by toddlers and young children and the acceptance rate for immunisation remains satisfactory and has been maintained at the usual high level.

The need for increased water supplies is now being felt and planning permission for additional building on the Manor Estate has had to be delayed because of insufficient supply and it is hoped that connexion with the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company will occur in the fairly near future, which will remedy this.

As with the water supply, the need for increased sewage purification facilities is urgent, and it is hoped that work will soon commence on the scheme already planned.

In connexion with the proposed alterations to the Oyster Cleansing Plant to enable the ultra-violet treatment to be adopted, it is hoped that the work will be started soon which will result in improved efficiency and economy of operation.

It is gratifying to see that the Council is progressing with the scheme for rehousing people now living in unfit property.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Public Health Committee and to the Council as a whole for the co-operation during the year. To the Staff of the Public Health Department I express my thanks for their work during the year.

I am, Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. Stenhouse,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIGHTLINGSEA 1961.

Area in acres	2,852
Population:			
1961 Registrar General's Estimate			4,750
1951 Census	...		4,502
Density of population per acre	...		1.6
Rateable value	...		£48,292
Sum represented by a penny rate	...		£201
Number of inhabited dwellings (approx.)	...		1,830
Total live births	...		66
Birth rate crude	...		13.8
Birth rate corrected	...		16.2
Birth rate (England and Wales)	...		17.4
Total live and still births	...		66
Total still births	...		-
Still birth rate	...		-
Still birth rate (England and Wales)	...		18.7
Total deaths	...		88
Death rate crude	...		18.5
Death rate corrected	...		12.9
Death rate (England and Wales)	...		12.0
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...		-
Infant mortality rate	...		-
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)			21.4
Infant mortality rate - legitimate	...		-
Infant mortality rate - illegitimate	...		-
Neo-natal mortality rate	...		-
Early Neo-natal mortality rate	...		-
Perinatal mortality rate	...		-
Number of illegitimate births	...		1
Percentage of total births	...		1.5
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			-
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...		-
Maternal mortality rate	...		-
Cancer deaths	...		14
Tuberculosis deaths	...		-

LIVE BIRTHS

Male	Female
34	32

Total: 66.

The principal causes of, and various ages at, death are given in the following tables:-

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1961.

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-
Cancer (all sites) ...	8	6	14
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	11	19
Coronary disease ...	9	5	14
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart diseases	9	10	19
Other circulatory diseases	7	3	10
Influenza ...	1	-	1
Pneumonia ...	2	2	4
Bronchitis ...	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1	2
Suicide ...	-	2	2
	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 88

DEATH OF VARIOUS AGES DURING 1961.

45 - 65 years	17
65 - 75 years	17
75 and upwards	54
	<hr/> 88

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following figures show the number of infectious diseases which were notified in the district during 1960:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases to Hospital	Cases at Home	Cases Confirmed	Deaths
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	1	1	-
Measles	17	4	13	17	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	1	-
Totals:	20	4	16	20	-

TUBERCULOSIS 1961

No cases of Tuberculosis have been notified during the year.

TOTAL CASES ON REGISTER AT END OF 1961 = 29

The age groups of the cases on the register are as follows:-

Age Groups in Years	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1 - 5	-	1	-	-	1
15 - 25	3	1	1	2	7
25 - 35	4	1	1	-	6
35 - 45	2	1	-	1	4
45 - 55	5	-	1	-	6
55 - 65	2	1	-	-	3
65 - 75	1	-	1	-	2
Totals	17	5	4	3	29

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES

The population of Brightlingsea by 1981 is estimated to be 6,500 and it is obvious that additional water supplies will be required for this additional population.

The pressure of development is now being felt and action has been taken to obtain additional supplies of water from the sources of the adjoining Water Undertaking.

The present position for water consumption in the area is that an average of 135,000 gallons per day is used, rising to a minimum of 167,000 gallons per day during the month of July. The water comes from two sources, Church Road, and Lower Park the former source produces some 35,000 gallons per day and the latter 105,000 gallons per day.

The Lower Park supply is rated at 200,000 gallons per day but in the interest of preventing saline content it is desirable that the safe maximum pumping rate be retained in the region of 130,000 gallons per day.

This permissible increase from the Lower Park source will provide an additional 25,000 gallons per day which should be adequate to cover the demand rising from development which has now been approved, that is, "Whitegate Farm" Estate and the "Maltings Estate". Further development in the region of the Manor Land will require a further 60,000 gallons per day, assuming that the present sources are retained.

It is understood that adequate provision has been made for an additional supply from the source of the adjacent Authority and no serious technical difficulties appear to exist in passing this additional water to Brightlingsea.

The main extension of the new development at Maltings Farm Estate is now in hand and provision is being made to reinforce the supply to this area by means of an additional main through Samson Road.

The total number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains is 1818 and of this number some 30 houses are supplied only by standpipe. Half this number are in connection with houses which are likely to be demolished during the year 1962.

Samples of water from the Public Undertaking were submitted regularly for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis and at all times the quality of the water was satisfactory. Results of both chemical and bacteriological examination are included below for the Lower Park and Church Road sources.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

	Church Road Waterworks	Lower Park Waterworks
Colour	3	7
Reaction pH.	6.4	7.5
Electric Conductivity	725	1400
Chlorine present as Chloride	92	270
Hardness Total	280	230
Carbonate	25	230
Non-carbonate	255	0
Nitrate Nitrogen	30	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	absent	absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.56
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.040	0.017
Metals (Iron, Zinc, Copper & Lead,)	Absent	Absent
		Iron
		0.12
Turbidity	Nil	Less than 3
Odour	Nil	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	70	17
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	550	890
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	25	275
Oxygen Absorbed	0.30	0.25
Residual Chlorine	absent	absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS -- CHURCH ROAD WATERWORKS.

No. of Colonies developing on Agar	<u>1 day at 37°C</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C</u>
	0 per ml.	1 per ml.
	<u>3 days at 20-22°C</u>	
	- per ml.	
Presumptive Coliform reaction	Present in - ml.	
	Absent from 100 ml.	
	Probable No. 0	
	per 100 ml.	

Bact. coli (Type 1)	Present in - ml.
	Absent from 100 ml.
	Probable No. 0 per 100 ml
Cl. welchii reaction	Present in ... ml.
	Absent from ... ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals. It has however a slightly acid reaction due to its low alkalinity with high content of free carbon dioxide. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents are not considered excessive. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results indicate a water which is wholesome in character. For a public supply however a mixture with other water is necessary to reduce its content of nitrate from the aspect of use for the preparation of infant feeds. Similarly a correction of its acid reaction is necessary for the avoidance of corrosion and possible plumbosolvent characteristics.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS - LOWER PARK WATERWORKS.

No. of Colonies developing on Agar	<u>1 day at 37°C</u>	<u>2 days at 27°C</u>
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
	<u>3 days at 20-22°C</u>	
	- per ml.	

Presumptive Coliform reaction	Present in - ml.
	Absent from 100 ml.
	Probable No. 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	Present in - ml.
	Absent from 100 ml.
	Probable No. 0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	Present in ... ml.
	Absent from ... ml.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The detailed survey work in connection with the improvements to sewers in the town is almost completed and it is hoped that full details will shortly be submitted to the Ministry for approval to commence operations within the coming year.

Concurrent with the survey work in connection with the sewers, further investigations are being carried out to finally decide the exact position of the new sewage works. Both these schemes are now a matter of some urgency as the general load on the sewage system continues to increase. Although surcharging has not been so serious during 1961, the position is still very critical at certain points on the sewage system.

Following upon the inception of the Clean Rivers Act, it is now imperative that full treatment of the sewage effluent should be given and this will necessitate the re-siting of the Sewage Works in a new position.

RIVER AND STREAM POLLUTION

No new effluent discharges into river and streams were permitted this year. Samples of the treated effluent from our existing works has been regularly tested by the River Board during the year.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

The following is a synopsis of the principal work carried out by the Public Health Inspector during 1961:-

Inspections (Public Health and Housing Acts)	284
Other inspections primarily in connection with Surveyor's duties	1,012
Informal Notices complied with	69
Statutory Notices served	9
Statutory Notices complied with	9
Number of premises at which nuisances were abated	15

Schedule of Housing Inspections and Improvements obtained:-

Type of Repair	Visits	Repairs completed
Dampness	21	13
Roof Defects	15	10
Plaster Defects	19	11
Pointing	6	2
Insufficient Drainage	10	3
Defective Drainage	32	24
Insufficient of Defective Closets	28	7
Defective Paving	8	5
Provision of Dustbins	27	27
Adequate Water Supply	20	7
Dangerous Buildings	7	2
Miscellaneous	38	3

Infestation:-

Rats	122	90
Mice	29	4
Bugs	3	3
Other Insects	12	11

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Inspections have been made from time to time and action to enforce compliance with the Act has been taken where necessary.

BATHING POOL

The existing pool is some 295 feet in length, 88 ft wide and varies from a depth of 1' to 7' at the deep end. The floor is constructed in concrete and the sides are lined with timber.

The service buildings are constructed in timber and 48 dressing cubicles have been provided. There is a limited amount of sanitary accommodation and a small office building.

The Pool is operated on the fill and empty principle, worked on a weekly cycle. No filtration plant is provided and only a small amount of chlorine is added by hand during the normal cleaning process.

Water samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the Season and no bad results were received.

Arising from a Special Report, submitted to the Council, it has been decided that an alternative site be sought and a new bathing pool constructed smaller in size than at present and designed to modern standards.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING GROUNDS

The Local Authority operates the only Caravan Site in the area and the demand for sites at present exceeds the space available.

Work is in progress in connection with the development of a further site which will house approximately 50 Caravans.

General improvements continue to be made to the existing site and provision of additional sanitary accommodation, water points and fire fighting equipment.

HOUSING

New houses and flats erected during 1961

Private Enterprise	34
Council Houses	Nil
Council Flats	Nil
	<hr/>
Total;	34
	<hr/>

FOOD

The following list shows the number of visits paid to premises at which food for human consumption is sold or prepared:-

Cafes and Restaurants	15
School Canteens	1
Butchers' Shops	12
Fish Friers	9
Wet Fish Shops	9
Bread and Cake Shops	12
Slaughterhouses	Nil
Ice Cream Vendors	18
Bakehouses	4

The following is a list of improvements obtained in Food Premises:-

Want of washing facilities	4
Want of cleanliness	1
Conditions of walls	2
Conditions of ceilings	1
Defects in drainage	-
Sanitary accommodation	2

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

The number of premises registered pursuant to Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act is as follows:-

Sausage meat, pressed, pickled and preserved meat	6
Sale of Ice Cream	17

FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY

The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority for the District.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the area.

During the year no diseased or unsound food was surrendered or condemned.

ICE CREAM

The total number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream is 17. No ice cream is sold in the district except as pre-wrapped from reputable sources.

BAKEHOUSES

There are four bakehouses in the Urban District, but none of these are underground premises. Four inspections were made during the year.

SHELLFISH

During 1961, 887, 110 oysters were passed through the purification tanks at Brightlingsea.

Samples were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination and all results were satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The public cleansing service has been maintained satisfactorily during the past year and arrangements have been made to open up the new tip at the Gravel Works in Back Road.

The Kiln Farm tip has now been closed and the ground completely rehabilitated for agricultural use.

Street gullies are emptied mechanically at regular intervals.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Reg- ister (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	12	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	23	22	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	20	-	-
Totals:	34	54	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness(S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2).....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)...	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	2	2	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

SECTIONS 110 and 111

Nature of work (1)	Number of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	Section 111 Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)
Wearing Apparel, Making etc.	5	-	-	-